



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-06-234

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNE 28, 2006**

### **MISSOURI ELECTRIC RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS CUSTOMERS AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY**

*Consumers urged to safely conserve energy*

JEFFERSON CITY—Missouri's residential, commercial and industrial customers benefit from some of the lowest electric rates in the country, according to information from the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Commercial electric customers in Missouri have the lowest electric rates in the nation according to the EIA's Electric Power Monthly (June), which reflects March 2006 data. That information shows Missouri residential customers have the seventh lowest electric rates in the nation and industrial customers the sixth lowest.

"This is good news for Missouri consumers as energy costs and the impacts of those costs on customer budgets continues to be a story of national interest," said PSC Chairman Jeff Davis.

"Low electric rates are not a reason to avoid efficient energy consumption. Everyone is encouraged to carefully evaluate their energy needs to determine ways they may be able to safely conserve energy," said Davis.

Some ways to conserve energy include:

- ✓ Don't constantly move the thermostat up or down throughout the day; this wastes energy and money;
- ✓ Use ceiling fans to help assist in cooling;
- ✓ Turn off lights when they are not in use and consider installing compact fluorescent light bulbs whenever possible;
- ✓ Make sure air conditioner filters are clean;
- ✓ Plug air leaks around doors, windows and the fireplace;
- ✓ Make sure furniture and drapes are not blocking cooling outlets;
- ✓ Close drapes and blinds during the day to keep the sun from heating the home;
- ✓ Use clothes dryers or dishwashers in the early morning or evening; and
- ✓ Consider a microwave instead of an oven to cook meals.

According to the EIA (for the month of March 2006), the average residential rate in Missouri is 6.69 cents per kWh (kilowatt-hour). The United States average residential rate is 9.86 cents per kWh. The average Missouri commercial rate is 5.38 cents per kWh with the national average at 9.02 cents per kWh. For industrial customers, the Missouri average rate is 3.99 cents per kWh with the national average at 5.76 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The state's rates have been going down relative to other states since 1997. In that year, Missouri's commercial electric rates were the 15<sup>th</sup> lowest of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Residential rates were the 19<sup>th</sup> lowest in 1997. EIA information in May of 2004 showed Missouri's residential rate was 15<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country with commercial rates being the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation.